

IN THE CLAIMS

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(Currently Amended) A latch arrangement comprising a latch, a release mechanism, a manually actuatable element, and a control means, the latch being operable to releasably retain a striker in use, the release mechanism being capable of being moved by the manually actuatable element from a rest position through an unlocked position to a release position wherein it unlatches the latch, the control means having a locked condition at which actuation of the manually actuatable element does not cause unlatching and an unlocked condition at which during an initial movement of the manually actuatable element, the release mechanism achieves the unlocked position and during subsequent movement of the manually actuatable element, the release mechanism achieves the release position. the release mechanism comprising a release link having an abutment operable to move a latch release element, movement of the release mechanism with the control means in the unlocked condition causes the abutment to move in a first path, and movement of the release mechanism with the control means in the locked condition causes the abutment to move in a second path, differing from the first path, in which the first path passes through a rest position of the latch release element and at the second path does not pass through the rest position of the latch release element and with the release mechanism in the rest position, the abutment is misaligned with the release element, and with the release mechanism in the unlocked position the abutment is aligned with the release element, the control means having a locked condition at which actuation of the manually actuatable element does not cause unlatching of the latch and an unlocked condition at which during an initial movement of the manually actuatable element, the release mechanism achieves the unlocked position thereby aligning the abutment with the release element and during subsequent movement of the manually actuatable element, the release mechanism achieves the release position.

1. (Cancelled)

misnumbered
claims

2. (Previously Presented) A latch arrangement as defined in claim 1 in which when the control means is in the locked condition actuation of the manually actuatable element moves the abutment, but the abutment does not move the latch release element.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) A latch arrangement as defined in claim 12 in which the release link is operably movable by a release lever.

5. (Original) A latch arrangement as defined in claim 1 in which a part of the release mechanism is retained in a rest position by the control means to provide for the lock condition.

6. (Original) A latch arrangement as defined in claim 6 in which said part of the release mechanism is retained by magnetic attraction.

7. (Previously Presented) A latch arrangement as defined in claim 6 in which said part of the release mechanism is retained by a control pawl.

8. (Previously Presented) A latch arrangement as defined in claim 6 in which said part of the release mechanism is a lock/unlock lever which is retained in a first position when the control means is in its locked condition and is allowed to be moved to a second position when the control means is in its unlocked condition.

9. (Previously Presented) A latch arrangement as defined in claim 9 in which the lock/unlock lever is connected to the release link by a connector.

10. (Original) A latch arrangement as defined in claim 10 in which the lock/unlock lever, connector and release link substantially move in unison during said initial movement of the manually actuable element.

11. (Currently amended) A latch arrangement as defined in claim 11 in which the lock/unlock ~~lever~~, connector and release link rotate about a pivot during said initial movement.

12. (Original) A latch arrangement as defined in claim 12 in which the pivot mounts the lock/unlock lever on a chassis of the latch arrangement.

13. (Original) A latch arrangement as defined in claim 12 in which the lock/unlock lever remains stationary during said subsequent movement of the manually actuable element.

14. (Original) A latch arrangement as defined in claim 1 in which the release mechanism is designed to return to the rest position from the release position upon release of the manually actuable element.

15. (Original) A latch arrangement as defined in claim 15 in which the release mechanism is biased to the rest position by resilient means.

16. (Original) A latch arrangement as defined in claim 16 in which a first resilient means biases the release mechanism to the unlocked position from the released position and a second resilient means biases the release mechanism to the rest position from the unlock position.

17. (Original) A latch arrangement as defined in claim 1 in which the latch is further movable between a latched and released position by a powered released actuator.

18. (Previously Presented) A latch arrangement as defined in claim 1 in which the control means is movable between the locked and unlocked conditions by manual operation of a coded security device.

21 20. (Currently Amended) A latch arrangement comprising a latch, a release mechanism, a manually actuatable element, and a control means, the latch being operable to releasably retain a striker in use, the release mechanism being capable of being moved by the manually actuatable element from a rest position through an unlocked position to a release position wherein the release mechanism unlatches the latch, the release mechanism comprising a release link having an abutment movable along first and second different paths and operable to move a latch release element, the control means having a locked condition at which actuation of the manually actuatable element moves said abutment along the second path and does not cause unlatching of the latch and an unlocked condition at which during an initial movement of the manually actuatable element, the abutment moves along the first path generally arcuately so that the release mechanism achieves the unlocked position and during subsequent movement of the manually actuatable element, the abutment moves along the first path generally linearly so that the release mechanism achieves the release position.

21. (Currently Amended) A latch arrangement comprising a latch, a release mechanism, a manually actuatable element and a control means, the latch being operable to releasably retain a striker in use, the release mechanism being capable of being moved by the manually actuatable element from a rest position along a first path through an unlocked position to a release position wherein the release mechanism unlatches the latch, the control means having a locked condition at which actuation of the manually actuatable element moves the release mechanism along a second path that does not cause unlatching of the latch and an unlocked condition at which during an initial movement of the manually actuatable element, the release mechanism moves along the first path and achieves the unlocked position and during subsequent movement of the manually actuatable element, the release mechanism achieves the release position in which a part of the release mechanism is held in said rest position by a magnet of the control means when the control means is in the locked condition thereby preventing the release mechanism from moving to the release position, and in which said part of the release mechanism is not held in said rest position by said magnet when the control means is in the unlocked condition, thereby allowing the release mechanism to move to the release position.

22. (Currently Amended) A latch for a vehicle door comprising:

a manually actuatable element;

a release mechanism movable by the manually actuatable element from a rest position through an unlocked position to a release position wherein it unlatches the latch, said release mechanism comprises a release link having an abutment operable to move along a first path

~~between aligned with said latch release element and a second path mis-aligned positions with a latch release element, wherein movement of said abutment along said first path is different than movement of said abutment along said second path; and~~

a control means having a locked condition at which actuation of said manually actuable element does not cause unlatching of said latch and an unlocked condition where initial movement of said manually actuable element causes said abutment of said release link to align with the release element such that during subsequent movement of said manually actuable element, said release mechanism is moved to said release position.

23. (Previously Presented) The latch as recited in claim 22, wherein said release mechanism further comprises a lock arm pivotal about a first pivot when said control means is in said unlocked condition, and fixed when said control means is in said locked condition.

24. (Currently Amended) The latch as recited in claim 23, wherein said release link is ~~pivotaly attached to said lock arm and movable along said first path in a first direction into alignment with said release element with said lock arm pivotal about said first pivot, and movable in a along said second path into second direction mis-aligned with said release element when said lock arm is fixed.~~

25. (Previously Presented) The latch as recited in claim 22, wherein said control means comprises a magnet.

26. (Previously Presented) The latch as recited in claim 22, wherein said control means comprises a pawl.

27. (Previously Presented) The latch as recited in claim 22, further comprising a biasing member biasing said release mechanism toward said rest position.

28. (New) The latch as recited in claim 22, wherein a portion of said first path is transverse to said second path.

29. (New) The latch as recited in claim 22, wherein said first path includes an arcuate portion and a linear portion parallel to movement of said release element.

30. (New) The latch as recited in claim 22, wherein said first path includes a component transverse to said second path and a component substantially parallel to said second path.

31. (New) The latch as recited in claim 22, wherein said first path includes an arcuate portion and a linear portion with the arcuate portion being transverse with the linear portion.

32. (New) The latch as recited in claim 1, wherein a portion said first path is transverse to said second path.

33. (New) The latch as recited in claim 1, wherein said first path includes an arcuate portion and a linear portion parallel to movement of said release element.

34. (New) The latch as recited in claim 1, wherein said first path includes a component transverse to said second path and a component substantially parallel to said second path.

35. (New) The latch as recited in claim 1, wherein said first path includes an arcuate portion and a linear portion with the arcuate portion being transverse with the linear portion.
